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BOOK NOTICES.

Hydrographic Surveying—Methods, Tables and Forms of Notes.

Samuel Hill Lea, M. Am. Soc. C. E. New York: The Engineering News Publishing Co., 1905.

This is a valuable Manual, setting forth the best modern practice in all kinds of hydrographic surveying, excepting marine hydrographic surveying in its more comprehensive forms. The book does not digress into those fields of engineering that embrace a consideration of the factors which affect the choice of sites for engineering structures, nor into the mathematical theories that underlie hydrographic surveying and the gauging of the flow of streams; it is confined to the practical needs of the surveyor who would conduct in the best manner the work that falls to his assignment.

In reaching this meritorious aim of setting forth plainly and directly what are the operations and computations comprised in hydrographic surveying and how they are carried out, the author has conferred upon students and beginners the important advantage of having at their service what would otherwise come to them only through extended experience in actual work in the field.

G. W. L.

Géographie de l'Empire de Chine. (Cours Supérieur.) Par L.

Richard. xviii, 564 and xxii pp. Many tables, maps, figures, and Index. Imprimerie de la Mission Catholique, Shanghai, 1905. (Price, \$3.80 Mexican.)

Géographie de l'Empire de Chine. (Cours Inférieur.) Par L. Richard, xx and 272 pp. Tables, maps, figures, and Index. Imprimerie de la Mission Catholique, Shanghai, 1905. (Price, \$1.80 Mexican.)

These text-books are in French, with all place-names also given in Chinese characters. The author had access to much information not readily obtained, and his books are a unique contribution to text-book literature. They are intended for Chinese students who are studying French in the mission schools of the Empire. The information is condensed, but is in astonishing variety, and is carefully compiled. The larger book especially will be valuable in any reference library, because it contains many facts not commonly known. Special attention is paid to physical geography, and the geology of various regions is also sketched. Much importance is given to commercial geography, indispensable in geographical treatises used in Chinese schools, because many of the students are the future merchants of the country. The comprehensive bibliographies in both books add much to their value, and statistics of most parts of the Empire are brought down to 1905. The maps, black-and-white and coloured, are numerous, but inferior in merit to the text, though many maps give numerous details, rather roughly presented, which we are not accustomed to see.

Die Barometrische Höhenmessung, mit neuen Tafeln, welche den Höhenunterschied ohne Zuhilfenahme von Logarithmentafeln zu berechnen gestatten. Von T. Liznar, O. Ö. Professor an der K. K. Hochschule für Bodenkultur in Wien. Leipzig und Wien: Franz Deuticke, 1904.

The author has given a thorough demonstration of the theory of the barometric measurement of heights by a method which is characterized by simplicity and brevity and which is different from the ordinary methods and partly new. Supposing the